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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/909,580	07/20/2001	Nathan R. Brown	500200.04	3035

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EXAMINER

GRANT, ALVIN J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3723

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/909,580

Applicant(s)

BROWN, NATHAN R.

Examiner

Alvin J Grant

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-40,42-48 and 50-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-40,42-48 and 50-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3,4,6,7. 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. **Claims 37-40, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 50** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Yu '699.

Yu discloses a method for planarizing a microelectronic substrate, comprising: biasing the microelectronic substrate against a planarizing medium with a flexible membrane to exert a first force on a first part of the microelectronic substrate and exert a second force greater than the first force on the second part of the microelectronic substrate; and moving at least one of the microelectronic substrate and the planarizing medium relative to the other to remove material from the electronic substrate; engaging the first part of the microelectronic substrate with a first portion of the flexible membrane having a first thickness; engaging the second part of the microelectronic substrate with a second portion of the flexible membrane having a second thickness greater than the first thickness; engaging a first part of the microelectronic substrate includes engaging a first annular part of the microelectronic substrate and engaging the second part of the microelectronic substrate includes engaging a second annular part of the microelectronic substrate disposed radially inwardly from the first annular part of the microelectronic substrate disposed radially outwardly from the first annular part of the microelectronic substrate (Figs.: 5-7); the membrane has a first surface facing toward the microelectronic substrate and a second surface facing generally opposite the first surface, further wherein biasing the microelectronic substrate against the planarizing medium includes biasing a generally flat support member against the second surface of the membrane; forming a membrane by providing a first ply of a membrane material at the first and second portions of the membrane and attaching a second ply of the membrane material to the first ply at the second portion of the membrane, moving the first part of the microelectronic substrate and the planarizing medium; moving

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at least one of the microelectronic substrate and planarizing medium relative to the other includes moving the first part of the microelectronic substrate and the planarizing medium at a first linear velocity relative to each other and moving the second part of the microelectronic substrate and the planarizing medium at a second linear velocity relative to each other, further wherein removing material from the microelectronic substrate includes removing material from the first part of the microelectronic substrate at a first rate and removing material from the second part of the microelectronic substrate at a second rate approximately the same as the first rate (column 1, lines 42-49); and the membrane is the first of a first and second membrane, each membrane having a first portion with a first thickness and a second portion with a second portion with a second thickness, a ratio of the first thickness to the second thickness of the second membrane having a second value inherently different than the first value, further comprising selecting the first membrane from the first and second membranes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claim 44** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu.

Yu is described above. Yu does not specifically disclose forming the membrane by disposing a membrane material in a mold. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have formed the membrane of Yu by disposing the membrane material in a mold as a matter of obvious design choice.

5. **Claim 43 and 51-53** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu in view of Hoffmann '572 B1.

Yu as modified is described above. The modified Yu does not specifically disclose a planarizing medium that includes advancing the polishing pad from a supply roller to a take-up roller. Hoffmann discloses a

CMP apparatus that uses a planarizing medium that includes advancing the polishing pad from a supply roller to a take-up roller so that clean pre-operative sections of the planarizing pad may be quickly submitted for used sections to provide a consistent surface for planarizing and/or cleaning the substrate. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to have used a planarizing medium that includes advancing the polishing pad from a supply roller to a take-up roller as taught by Hoffmann so that clean pre-operative sections of the planarizing pad may be quickly submitted for used sections to provide a consistent surface for planarizing and/or cleaning the substrate.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin J Grant whose telephone number is (703) 305-3315. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J Hail can be reached on (703) 308-2687. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 305-3588 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1184.

ajg
April 5, 2003



Joseph J. Hail, III
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3700